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USSR: Results of Supreme Soviet

The Soviet leadership apparently has decided to defer the potentially divisive issue of naming a new president. [REDACTED]

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The Supreme Soviet ended on Wednesday without appointing a replacement for Brezhnev as president. Until agreement is reached, Presidium First Deputy Chairman Kuznetsov will perform the duties of chief of state. [REDACTED]

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Comment: The lack of a decision indicates that General Secretary Andropov is powerful enough to block the appointment of someone not closely associated with him. At the same time, he apparently is not yet willing or able to claim the job for himself or an ally. [REDACTED]

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The session appointed Azarbayjan party boss Aliyev as first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. He has been in the forefront of the drive against corruption, and his appointment suggests this campaign will intensify. Andropov emphasized the need for discipline in his speech at the Central Committee meeting earlier this week. [REDACTED]

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Party secretary Chernenko was named chairman of one of the Supreme Soviet's two foreign affairs commissions. This is not a full-time job, but it indicates he has assumed some or all of Suslov's responsibilities. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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USSR-CHINA: Prospects for Troop Reductions

Moscow appears to be establishing the groundwork for a formal offer to negotiate a mutual reduction of troops along the Chinese border. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] the Soviets have been speaking publicly in terms of mutual reductions. Last week the editor-in-chief of *Pravda* was quoted as saying the most likely area of accord would be mutual troop cuts, because both sides would like to reduce the costs of maintaining large numbers of troops on the border. An official of the party's international department had said earlier that a mutual reduction was possible. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Moscow apparently is unwilling to make the unilateral reductions Beijing is seeking. The Soviet leadership probably wants to bargain for reciprocal measures that would reduce its security concerns about China and enable the USSR to avoid sole responsibility for the tension over this issue. In addition, Soviet leaders may be wary of opposition in the armed forces toward any major unilateral concessions. [REDACTED]

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//If negotiations on this subject were to begin, they would be long and complicated. Establishing a data base from which reductions could be calculated or agreeing on verification principles would be difficult.// [REDACTED]

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//The USSR has more than 400,000 well-equipped troops close to the border on Soviet and Mongolian territory. China has smaller numbers of troops with mostly obsolete equipment directly opposite the Soviet forces, but it has 1.6 million troops in the four military regions adjacent to the USSR and Mongolia.// [REDACTED]

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CHINA: National People's Congress

Beijing will unveil a five-year plan and ratify a new national constitution at the fifth session of the Fifth National People's Congress--China's rubber-stamp parliament--which convenes today.

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The Standing Committee of the Congress last week announced the agenda for the annual session. Premier Zhao Ziyang will deliver a report on the sixth Five-Year Plan, for 1981-85, which the Congress is to approve. The Congress also is to announce a number of personnel changes and ratify the draft constitution, which has been circulating "for discussion" since April.

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Comment: The session is likely to provide details of policy pronouncements left vague at the party congress in September. The Five-Year Plan is the first substantial outline of medium-term economic goals since the 1950s. The plan and the accompanying budget for 1983 probably will reflect decisions on the strengthening of central financial and planning controls and other hotly debated economic issues.

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The draft constitution contains several controversial provisions, including the abolition of communes as rural administrative divisions and the reestablishment of the post of state chairman, which Mao abolished during the Cultural Revolution. The constitution also would create a State Central Military Council, but Beijing has not yet defined its powers.

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Politburo Standing Committee member Li Xiannian is the favored candidate for state chairman, a largely symbolic post. The composition of the Military Council probably will overlap with the membership of the party's powerful Military Commission.

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Party Secretary General Hu Yaobang reportedly told a recent foreign visitor that Ye Jianying, 85, will step down as Chairman of the Standing Committee of the Congress. Ye has consistently resisted efforts to separate him from any of his official posts, but his health makes him unable to handle even routine ceremonial duties.

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LEBANON: Challenges to Government Authority

Sporadic violence underscores the inability of the government to impose its authority and threatens eventually to damage the fragile national consensus that emerged with the election of President Jumayyil in September.

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//In the Shuf region, the bodies of nine Christian militiamen were discovered on Tuesday in the town of Ayn Zhalta. The US Embassy reports that rumors are circulating about a buildup of Christian forces in the western Shuf in preparation for a retaliatory operation. Phalange militia leaders may think that a decisive victory over the Druze would strengthen their party's political control in the area, where they have little traditional support.//

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Comment: The Iranians apparently have not been notably successful in radicalizing Lebanon's Shia Muslims. Nevertheless, incidents such as those early this week discredit the central government, demoralize the Army, and may encourage some militant Shiites to challenge government authority.

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The government has stayed on the sidelines throughout the fighting in the Shuf, because it lacks a credible force to impose order. Jumayyil has chaired several meetings aimed at halting the violence, but thus far no progress has been made toward reconciliation. If Jumayyil cannot negotiate an end to the fighting, religious factions throughout the country will be encouraged to pursue their own narrow interests.

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TURKEY-GREECE: Worsening Relations

//The cancellation of a meeting between the Greek and Turkish Foreign Ministers suggests another period of strained relations is ahead.//

//The Greek Government on Wednesday called off the meeting, which had been scheduled for 9 December at the NATO ministerial meeting in Brussels. Athens attributed the cancellation to charges that Turkish aircraft in recent days have violated Greek airspace in the Aegean islands. Greece claims a 10-mile airspace around its islands, but Turkey recognizes only 6 miles.//

//On Wednesday the Greeks also called a meeting of ambassadors from NATO countries other than Turkey. They charged that the violations of Greek airspace--coming before the NATO defense planning meeting next week--are provocations against NATO as well.//

//A Turkish Foreign Ministry official, commenting on his country's annual military exercise in the Aegean, claims that the moratorium negotiated by the two governments last July--in which the Turks agreed to stop flying closer than 10 miles to Greek territory--did not compel Ankara to accept the Greek Government's territorial claims. Turkish Foreign Minister Turkmen told his Greek counterpart in October, however, that Turkish aircraft would continue to fly outside the 6-mile limit in accordance with international rules.//

Comment: //Prime Minister Papandreou almost certainly wants the moratorium to continue, but he is in no position to overlook Turkish violations. His defense of Greece's rights in the Aegean has been the chief factor in his domestic popularity. He could use the incident to request a US security guarantee against Turkey in the US-Greek base negotiations now under way.//

//Turkey probably also would like to continue the truce. Its actions--taking place just before the meeting of the Foreign Ministers--may have been intended to put pressure on Athens to engage in serious talks.//

//Ankara is likely to interpret the cancellation as an indication that Papandreou does not want to continue the dialogue. As a result, more polemics are probable.//

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OAU: Summit Canceled

Efforts to convene the OAU summit in Tripoli collapsed yesterday following the failure by African leaders to break the deadlock over the seating of a Chadian delegation. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Libyan leader Qadhafi's second failure in four months to accede to the OAU chairmanship is a blow to his prestige and foreign policy goals. It also thwarts his plans to address the UN General Assembly. [REDACTED]

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Qadhafi's intransigence on the Chad issue and his denunciation last week of the Franco-African summit in October have antagonized moderate African leaders. This may complicate any further efforts to reconvene the summit in Tripoli. [REDACTED]

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The Chad issue has widened the rift between OAU radicals and moderates that was spotlighted earlier this year by the Polisario membership controversy, thus further damaging the OAU's effectiveness in dealing with regional disputes. The future of the organization also has been jeopardized by the failure to address administrative matters, including adoption of the annual budget and election of key Secretariat officials. [REDACTED]

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USSR-US: Criticism of President's Speech

An authoritative editorial in *Pravda* yesterday contained a personal attack on President Reagan, condemning his administration's arms control policies as one-sided attempts to achieve military superiority. It sought to refute the President's presentation of comparative indices of US and Soviet military strength, denounced the proposed MX program as "counter" to the SALT I and SALT II restrictions against construction of new silos for ICBMs, and said the US negotiating proposals at INF and START were "absurd." On the other hand, the editorial noted that the President's proposed confidence-building measures, particularly regarding notification of missile tests, were positive. [redacted]

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Comment: The tone of the editorial is consistent with General Secretary Andropov's own statement on Monday that alleged US preconditions for progress in arms control and bilateral relations will be rejected. The criticism of the President's arms control policies probably is intended to encourage domestic and foreign pressures on the US to moderate its negotiating positions at START and INF. The condemnation of the MX decision also may be aimed at heightening US Congressional opposition to the MX program. [redacted]

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YUGOSLAVIA: Outbreaks of Nationalist Violence

Croat nationalists at Zagreb University recently terrorized non-Croat students and assaulted a party member who threatened to report them, according to the US Consulate in Zagreb. The faculty of the university is alert for more trouble. The incident was the first student violence in Croatia since the early 1970s. According to newspapers in Belgrade, a homemade bomb exploded on Monday in the capital of Kosovo Province. [redacted]

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Comment: The Croats believe that Belgrade is forcing Croatia to make greater economic sacrifices during the current austerity campaign than other parts of the country. Students are particularly frustrated because of bleak job prospects caused by the economic situation. The bombing in Kosovo is the latest violence in a province where Albanian nationalists have continued to cause serious problems since rioting early last year. [redacted]

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SPAIN: Socialists' Timetable

The Spanish parliament will hear socialist leader Gonzalez's program on Tuesday and will then elect him to head the government. Gonzalez's cabinet is expected to be in place by the end of next week. Most of the likely candidates for cabinet positions are moderates. Fernando Moran, a prominent socialist intellectual, is being touted as foreign minister. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Although the Socialists are still undecided on some key economic and foreign policies, Gonzalez probably will unveil a host of symbolic programs to project an image of vigor and change. Moran would be likely to favor a more independent foreign policy than the previous government and call for the development of closer ties to the Third World. [REDACTED]

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BULGARIA: Zhivkov's Health

President and party leader Zhivkov, 71, recently returned to Sofia after cataract surgery in Moscow. Zhivkov attended Brezhnev's funeral, but he will not resume his full range of duties for several weeks. The Bulgarian leader has had an eye ailment for several years and he also suffers from hypertension. [REDACTED]

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Comment: Zhivkov's recovery has taken longer than Bulgarian officials anticipated, but he is otherwise believed to be in good health. If the surgery proves successful, he should be able to continue in his posts. Zhivkov has not named an heir, although Prime Minister Filipov--a favorite of the Soviets--appears to be number two in the leadership. [REDACTED]

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Special Analysis

JAPAN: Nakasone and His Policies

//Yasuhiro Nakasone provides a sharp contrast in style to former Prime Minister Suzuki and should prove to be one of Japan's most colorful and imaginative prime ministers. Nakasone is an outspoken nationalist whose goal is to win Japan a "position of greatness" in the world community. He also plans to play a personal role in strengthening relations with the US. Although Nakasone is likely to launch an energetic search for solutions to the difficult domestic and foreign problems before him, he--like his predecessor--will have to work within the bounds of the Liberal Democratic Party's policies and consensus decisionmaking.// []

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//Spurring the economy will be among the most immediate and difficult tasks facing the new Prime Minister. He has to win passage during the special Diet session--which begins today--of a supplemental budget to increase government spending and to cover the deficit for this year. Nakasone has said that both economic stimulus and fiscal reform are necessary, but he places greater priority on the latter.// []

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//Nakasone also will have to address serious differences with the US over trade and defense. He recognizes that the trade issue has become a political as well as an economic problem. Although he has admitted his lack of knowledge about the subject, he is well known for doing his homework.// []

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Attitudes on Defense

//The new Prime Minister is much better prepared to deal with defense matters. He was a vigorous advocate of a revitalized military capability long before such a position was politically respectable.// []

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//As director general of the Defense Agency in the early 1970s, Nakasone drew up the plan that originated the concept of defending sea lanes up to 1,000 miles from the home islands. He has acknowledged that Japan may have to spend more than 1 percent of its GNP to carry

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its share of the defense burden. As a vigorous advocate of a complementary defense relationship with the US, he is more likely to take a positive stance on sharing defense technology than Suzuki.//

//Early in Nakasone's administration, the Foreign Ministry probably will recommend that Japan provide money or materiel for multinational peacekeeping forces in the Middle East. Nakasone is likely to sound out the Arab states before responding to such a proposal. He has a pro-Arab bias, and, during 1974, led efforts to create a new policy more sympathetic toward Arab oil producers.//

Constraints on Nakasone

//The Prime Minister will be much more active than Suzuki in making decisions on domestic issues and is likely to take early command of foreign policy. Despite his aggressive style, however, he will have to operate under certain constraints.//

//With local and national elections scheduled for next spring and summer, Nakasone probably will not take any action on sensitive issues that might alienate the voters. He has to be particularly careful on the issue of defense. Because of his reputation as a "hawk," he is keenly aware every comment he makes on defense will be scrutinized by the press.//

//Another serious constraint on Nakasone's activity will come from within his own party. He is indebted to former Prime Ministers Tanaka and Suzuki, and both of them will try to maintain their influence in his administration.//

//Tanaka remains one of the most powerful figures in Japanese politics, although he has been on trial for six years for involvement in the Lockheed bribery scandal. The prosecutor's recommendation for a stiff sentence is expected in early 1983, with a final verdict sometime in late 1983 or early 1984.//

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//Nakasone may believe it necessary to dissociate himself from Tanaka [redacted]

[redacted] The Prime Minister will have a difficult path to walk between alienating Tanaka and appearing to be his puppet.// [redacted]

//The degree of support Nakasone has from the bureaucracy and the business community also will influence his effectiveness. Most major business leaders favored his election, and he probably can count on their support.// [redacted]

//Nakasone may have less success with his efforts to win the backing of the powerful bureaucracy. As a career politician, he has no longstanding contacts in the ministries. [redacted]

Relations With the US

//If the Liberal Democratic Party does well at the polls in 1983 and if Nakasone is able to control factional infighting, he will have more room to demonstrate his decisiveness and creativity. He is a persuasive champion of his chosen projects, and all signs indicate that one of those projects will be shoring up relations with the US. Nakasone believes he understands Americans well.// [redacted]

//Naksone may be more frank than his predecessors in expressing displeasure when he thinks Washington is pushing too hard. He has always been sensitive to policies that give the impression of placing Japan in a subordinate role. At the same time, he might propose more imaginative solutions to bilateral problems than have his predecessors.// [redacted]

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